

Morbidity and Mortality

Weekly
Report



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Provisional Information on Selected Notifiable Diseases in the United States and on Deaths in Selected Cities for Week Ended December 29, 1956

There were few radical changes in incidence of reportable diseases in 1956 as compared with 1955.

After a temporary rise in incidence of diphtheria which began in the latter half of 1955 and extended into the first half of 1956, the number of reported cases began to decline. The 1956 total is slightly more than 20 percent below the total for 1955, and the total for the last half of 1956 is about 40 percent under that for the same period of the previous year. However, several States reported more cases in 1956 than in 1955, and some localized outbreaks continued to occur. In the most recent one, it was clearly evident that the level of immunity in the involved population was far below that needed to prevent this infection.

The number of reported cases of infectious encephalitis in 1956 was about 50 percent in excess of that for 1955. This disease category includes postinfectious as well as arthropod-borne (mosquito) types of infection. Localized outbreaks and sporadic cases of the latter occurred in various parts of the country. Human cases of eastern equine encephalomyelitis, principally in children, were reported in Massachusetts and Maryland. Virus was isolated from brain tissue of fatal cases. Confirmed cases in horses were also reported in these States and in New Jersey, Delaware, and Alabama. Outbreaks of this disease in birds on pheasant farms located in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Jersey were confirmed by virus isolation. Pools of mosquitoes captured in New Jersey and Georgia also yielded virus. Western equine encephalomyelitis infections in man were not common in 1956. Laboratory confirmed cases were reported in Texas and California, and scattered cases in 5 other western States. A large number of cases of the St. Louis type of infection, mostly in adults, occurred in localized epidemics in 2 areas each in Kentucky and Colorado, and single areas of Kansas and Texas. In Indiana, no outbreak was defined, but a number of cases have been confirmed by serologic tests.

The provisional number of psittacosis cases reported in 1956 is about 90 percent in excess of the number for 1955. One or more cases occurred in 38 different States. The 6 States reporting the largest numbers were North Carolina with 76, Minnesota 62, California 44, Oregon 43, Illinois 38, and Texas 33. A great majority of the cases for which epidemiological reports were received had contact with parakeets. Contact with ducks, chickens, and pigeons was also reported as probable sources of infection. Laboratory infection was indicated in 2 cases. A large proportion of the cases reported in Oregon followed contact with turkeys on farms, in poultry processing plants and rendering plants situated in the northwestern part of the State. Texas also reported cases in which contact with turkeys was established as the probable source of infection.

There was an increase in incidence of typhoid fever in 1956. Thirty States reported more cases than in 1955. Early in the year, numerous cases were reported in several mid-western States from which the same phage-type of organism was recovered. Although some widely distributed food product was suspected as the vehicle of infection, definite proof of such a source could not be found. During the summer, another group of cases, also reported from a number of States, was traced to a church camp meeting attended by several hundred people. Epidemiological evidence indicated that the water sup-

ply of the camp was the likely medium of spread of the infection. A known carrier who harbored the same phage-type of organism as that recovered from the majority of the cases had attended the camp meeting and may have been the original source of infection.

The number of cases of infectious hepatitis reported in 1956 was about 40 percent below the total for 1955, and 60 percent below that for 1954. Meningococcal infections and typhus fever cases were also reported in smaller numbers in 1956. There were no confirmed cases of smallpox but several suspect cases were investigated. A review of poliomyelitis incidence in 1956 appeared in last week's "Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report."

SUMMARY OF MORTALITY

During the 52-week period January 1 through December 29, 1956, a total of 534,103 deaths was reported by the 108 major cities listed in table 4. This was 1.5 percent more than the number of deaths (526,008) reported by these cities during the 52-week period January 2 through December 31, 1955.

The chart on page 6 shows the number of deaths reported in the major cities of the United States by week during 1956. The outstanding feature in the mortality picture is the high level of deaths beginning in March and continuing through June. Excess deaths during the early months of the year have often resulted from influenza outbreaks, however, the increase in deaths for March through June of 1956 compared with the same period of preceding years was not associated with a widespread occurrence of influenza.

Again in the last 4 months of the year the level of deaths reported weekly in 1946 was close to or above the maximum for the corresponding weeks of the previous 5 years.

The cities in the West South Central Division reported in 1956 the largest percentage increase in deaths over 1955. Each week, with only 6 exceptions, the number of deaths reported in 1956 was above the 3-year median (1953-55) for that week. A satisfactory explanation for this excess has not been made.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS

Malaria

Dr. J. D. Martin, Louisiana State Department of Health, has reported a case of malaria in a 31-year-old woman who spent the month of August in Mexico. During the last week of her stay she became ill with diarrhea which continued until she returned home. Other symptoms were chills and a high fever. Plasmodium vivax was demonstrated by blood smear.

Psittacosis

Dr. Dean Fisher, Maine State Department of Health and Welfare, has reported a case of psittacosis in a 56-year-old man. This man became ill with sweats, chills, fever, and a severe cough. The family owned a parakeet purchased in Florida 3 years ago. The bird was apparently in good health until about the time its owner became ill. Home treatment was ad-

ministered but the bird died and was buried. Several months later the diagnosis of psittacosis was made when a laboratory report on paired sera showed that the patient had in the past been infected with psittacosis.

Tularemia

Dr. James R. Amos, Missouri Department of Public Health and Welfare, has reported a case of tularemia in a 62-year-old woman. She was bitten on the finger by a sick cat which had been confined in a small building. It is known that the cat frequently killed and ate wild rabbits. The woman denied having handled any of the rabbits killed by the cat or any other rabbit or squirrel in years. A blood specimen from the cat was serologically positive for *Pasteurella tularensis* in a dilution of 1:40 and a specimen from the patient was positive in a titer of 1:640.

Diphtheria

An outbreak of diphtheria, in which cases were very mild or had no clinical illness, has been reported by the Highlands County (Florida) Health Department. During a 2-month period 6 cases were reported in a town of 5,000 inhabitants. Four

were in a third-grade class in school but the other two had no apparent association with the school. Only 1 of the 6 had any prior diphtheria immunization. All persons had positive cultures, typed as *mitis virulent*, without typical clinical symptoms.

Salmonellosis

Information has been received of the occurrence of an outbreak of salmonellosis in a school in Maryland. Of 664 persons served turkey dinners in the cafeteria, an estimated 150 became ill. This estimate was based on the number absent from school and the normal absenteeism, in addition to the number who became ill at school. The pupils developed moderate to severe abdominal cramps with sudden onset, and violent diarrhea from 10 to 26 hours after the meal.

The turkeys, Government frozen surplus, were issued under the school lunch program. Ten turkeys were placed in a 36-degree refrigerator to thaw over the weekend. On Monday some of the birds were not completely thawed. At least 2 of them were tightly stuffed and the turkeys placed in an oven. After cooking, the turkeys were left at room temperature until

Continued on page 8

Table 1. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: CONTINENTAL UNITED STATES
(Numbers after diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

DISEASE	52d WEEK			CUMULATIVE NUMBER						Approximate seasonal low point
	Ended Dec. 29, 1956	Ended Dec. 31, 1955	Median 1951-55	For 52 weeks			Since seasonal low week			
				1956	1955	Median 1951-55	1955-56	1954-55	Median 1950-51 to 1954-55	
Anthrax-----062	-	-	-	37	27	33	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Botulism-----049.1	-	-	---	12	9	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Brucellosis (undulant fever)-----044	16	14	---	1,100	1,232	---	---	---	---	---
Diphtheria-----055	33	54	51	1,581	2,039	2,397	755	1,330	1,345	July 1
Encephalitis, infectious-----082	22	22	17	2,193	1,482	1,482	1,564	922	922	June 1
Hepatitis, infectious, and serum-----092,N998.5 pt.	395	400	---	19,278	31,340	---	---	---	---	---
Malaria-----110-117	-	-	---	234	477	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Measles-----085	4,510	3,725	4,751	613,906	547,497	547,497	37,212	29,098	35,285	Sept. 1
Meningococcal infections-----057	43	77	77	2,696	3,494	4,125	731	923	1,155	Sept. 1
Meningitis, other-----340	26	---	---	1,624	---	---	---	---	---	---
Poliomyelitis-----080	102	119	192	15,400	29,270	35,968	14,333	28,207	34,387	Apr. 1
Psittacosis-----096.2	5	10	---	508	278	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Rabies in man-----094	-	-	-	9	5	13	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Smallpox-----084	-	-	-	-	-	5	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Typhoid fever-----040	12	23	23	1,759	1,726	2,283	1,446	1,419	1,877	Apr. 1
Typhus fever, endemic-----101	2	1	---	105	131	---	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)
Rabies in animals-----	91	69	103	4,716	5,062	7,190	964	1,027	1,515	Oct. 1

¹Frequencies are too small.

NOTE.—One case of plague was reported in California for 1956.

SOURCE AND NATURE OF MORBIDITY DATA

These provisional data are based on reports to the Public Health Service from health departments of each State and of Alaska, Hawaii, and Puerto Rico. They give the total number of cases of certain communicable diseases reported during the week usually ended the preceding Saturday. Cases of anthrax, botulism, rabies in man, and smallpox are not shown in table 2,

but a footnote to table 1 shows the States making the reports. In addition, when diseases of rare occurrence (cholera, dengue, plague, relapsing fever—louse borne, typhus fever—epidemic, and yellow fever) are reported, they will be noted at the end of table 1.

Symbols.—1 dash [-]: no cases reported; 3 dashes [---]: data not available.

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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955 AND DECEMBER 29, 1956

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	BRUCELLOSIS (UNDULANT FEVER)		DIPHTHERIA 055				ENCEPHALITIS, INFECTIOUS		HEPATITIS, INFECTIOUS, AND SERUM 092, N998.5 pt.			
	044		52d week		Cumulative for 52 weeks		082		52d week		Cumulative for 52 weeks	
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	16	14	33	64	1,581	2,039	22	22	395	400	19,278	31,340
NEW ENGLAND-----	1	-	-	-	17	23	2	2	22	23	1,206	2,724
Maine-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	13	306	390
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	34	85
Vermont-----	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	2	-	168	257
Massachusetts-----	1	-	-	-	16	21	2	2	6	2	305	897
Rhode Island-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	141	375
Connecticut-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	6	252	720
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	-	1	1	2	67	62	2	11	43	89	4,081	7,714
New York-----	-	1	1	2	22	41	2	10	27	44	2,238	4,204
New Jersey-----	-	-	-	-	24	6	-	1	4	4	376	490
Pennsylvania-----	-	-	-	-	21	15	-	-	12	41	1,467	3,020
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	4	3	6	5	341	151	2	5	47	75	2,961	4,427
Ohio-----	-	-	3	-	21	43	1	-	13	11	718	778
Indiana-----	-	1	-	-	92	35	-	1	4	20	395	607
Illinois-----	2	1	2	-	10	11	1	-	11	24	697	1,049
Michigan-----	1	1	1	5	216	59	-	2	11	15	816	1,245
Wisconsin-----	1	-	-	-	2	3	-	2	8	5	335	748
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	7	6	2	3	137	222	2	-	92	38	1,580	3,553
Minnesota-----	1	-	-	1	27	57	-	-	81	11	574	1,274
Iowa-----	4	5	1	1	18	20	-	-	2	11	370	949
Missouri-----	1	-	1	1	14	16	2	-	1	1	98	335
North Dakota-----	-	-	1	-	13	2	-	-	6	-	151	307
South Dakota-----	1	1	-	-	12	45	-	-	1	14	179	382
Nebraska-----	-	-	-	-	34	79	-	-	-	-	97	82
Kansas-----	-	-	1	-	19	3	-	-	1	1	111	224
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	1	-	16	12	393	698	1	-	25	29	1,228	2,587
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	31	48
Maryland-----	-	-	-	-	2	14	-	1	5	5	98	363
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	1	2	-	-	1	-	22	41
Virginia-----	1	-	-	1	32	43	-	-	9	10	489	1,048
West Virginia-----	-	-	2	1	10	20	-	-	5	-	72	239
North Carolina-----	-	-	1	3	69	91	-	-	1	4	127	332
South Carolina-----	-	-	9	-	94	193	-	-	2	-	73	85
Georgia-----	-	-	2	83	243	-	-	-	1	-	161	171
Florida-----	-	-	4	5	102	91	-	1	10	-	155	262
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	2	1	2	18	212	445	1	-	23	34	1,683	1,734
Kentucky-----	-	-	-	4	17	50	1	-	14	7	544	362
Tennessee-----	2	1	-	3	23	43	-	-	2	23	701	878
Alabama-----	-	-	2	10	115	301	-	-	4	2	210	306
Mississippi-----	-	-	-	1	57	51	-	-	3	2	228	388
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	1	-	3	6	297	344	-	1	13	9	1,352	1,839
Arkansas-----	-	-	-	-	22	11	-	-	4	-	150	222
Louisiana-----	-	-	-	2	38	50	-	-	-	-	138	128
Oklahoma-----	1	-	-	-	59	29	-	-	-	1	115	190
Texas-----	-	-	3	4	178	254	1	-	9	8	949	1,299
MOUNTAIN-----	-	-	2	-	62	23	-	-	25	46	1,672	2,642
Montana-----	-	-	-	-	4	5	-	-	-	14	389	495
Idaho-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	3	202	267
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	7	-	-	-	2	3	117	158
Colorado-----	-	-	1	-	4	3	-	-	4	9	376	528
New Mexico-----	-	-	1	-	37	4	-	-	11	3	174	345
Arizona-----	-	-	-	-	6	8	-	-	7	10	328	748
Utah-----	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-	4	77	78
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	9	23
PACIFIC-----	-	3	1	8	55	71	13	2	105	57	3,515	4,120
Washington-----	-	1	-	-	12	26	-	-	19	4	636	878
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	11	-	-	-	7	15	690	1,087
California-----	-	2	1	8	32	45	13	2	79	38	2,189	2,155
Alaska-----	-	-	-	-	36	-	-	-	2	-	212	362
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	55	45
Puerto Rico-----	1	-	4	2	90	70	-	-	-	1	233	85

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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955 AND DECEMBER 29, 1956—Continued
(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	POLIOMYELITIS 080								MALARIA		MEASLES	
	Total ¹				Paralytic		Nonparalytic		110-117		085	
	52d week		Cumulative for 52 weeks		080.0,080.1		080.2					
	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	102	119	15,400	29,270	58	63	30	28	-	-	4,510	3,725
NEW ENGLAND-----	1	12	252	5,556	1	7	-	4	-	-	248	126
Maine-----	-	1	22	206	-	1	-	-	-	-	73	7
New Hampshire-----	-	1	3	225	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	-
Vermont-----	-	1	21	126	-	1	-	-	-	-	24	10
Massachusetts-----	1	5	111	3,922	1	4	-	1	-	-	52	102
Rhode Island-----	-	2	9	422	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	1
Connecticut-----	-	2	86	655	-	1	-	1	-	-	96	6
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	10	9	1,219	4,241	3	4	4	1	-	-	644	613
New York-----	5	6	797	2,802	3	4	2	1	-	-	243	207
New Jersey-----	2	1	212	688	-	-	2	-	-	-	184	61
Pennsylvania-----	3	2	210	751	-	-	-	-	-	-	217	345
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	22	15	4,141	6,843	16	8	2	3	-	-	548	914
Ohio-----	3	2	628	1,282	2	-	-	-	-	-	73	251
Indiana-----	6	2	433	451	4	2	1	-	-	-	104	39
Illinois-----	9	7	1,843	1,401	7	4	1	3	-	-	69	295
Michigan-----	4	-	683	1,192	3	-	-	-	-	-	153	240
Wisconsin-----	-	4	554	2,517	-	2	-	-	-	-	149	89
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	9	9	1,715	2,146	3	5	5	3	-	-	182	103
Minnesota-----	1	2	205	600	1	2	-	-	-	-	82	1
Iowa-----	1	3	629	558	1	1	-	1	-	-	17	12
Missouri-----	-	4	421	277	-	2	-	2	-	-	33	11
North Dakota-----	2	-	40	65	1	-	1	-	-	-	37	56
South Dakota-----	-	-	38	81	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	1
Nebraska-----	5	-	195	283	-	-	4	-	-	-	3	7
Kansas-----	-	-	187	282	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	15
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	10	10	1,512	2,422	7	4	2	3	-	-	292	408
Delaware-----	1	-	28	58	1	-	-	-	-	-	12	2
Maryland-----	-	-	111	279	-	-	-	-	-	-	10	187
District of Columbia-----	-	-	11	53	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	10
Virginia-----	5	2	236	327	4	-	1	2	-	-	27	118
West Virginia-----	1	1	114	187	1	1	-	-	-	-	59	38
North Carolina-----	-	2	336	463	-	2	-	-	-	-	31	6
South Carolina-----	2	-	114	311	1	-	1	-	-	-	63	7
Georgia-----	-	1	197	272	-	1	-	-	-	-	42	31
Florida-----	1	4	365	472	-	-	-	1	-	-	48	9
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	9	5	755	1,038	4	2	1	1	-	-	722	145
Kentucky-----	2	2	200	427	1	1	1	1	-	-	236	85
Tennessee-----	2	-	156	243	1	-	-	-	-	-	397	43
Alabama-----	3	1	103	183	-	1	-	-	-	-	68	12
Mississippi-----	2	2	296	185	2	-	-	-	-	-	21	5
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	19	18	2,427	2,801	13	10	6	2	-	-	437	652
Arkansas-----	4	-	221	186	3	-	1	-	-	-	39	63
Louisiana-----	3	4	622	385	2	4	1	-	-	-	-	5
Oklahoma-----	-	2	224	300	-	-	-	1	-	-	5	133
Texas-----	12	12	1,360	1,930	8	6	4	1	-	-	393	451
MOUNTAIN-----	7	12	837	1,111	4	3	2	2	-	-	534	580
Montana-----	1	1	55	156	1	-	-	-	-	-	33	173
Idaho-----	-	1	110	258	-	1	-	-	-	-	23	11
Wyoming-----	-	1	37	36	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	117
Colorado-----	2	2	162	227	1	-	1	2	-	-	64	141
New Mexico-----	2	-	84	133	2	-	-	-	-	-	120	19
Arizona-----	1	1	130	132	-	1	1	-	-	-	90	108
Utah-----	-	1	224	83	-	-	-	-	-	-	151	11
Nevada-----	1	5	35	86	-	-	-	-	-	-	51	-
PACIFIC-----	15	29	2,542	3,112	7	20	8	9	-	-	903	184
Washington-----	2	2	190	539	-	2	2	-	-	-	239	-
Oregon-----	1	2	173	447	-	-	1	2	-	-	42	12
California-----	12	25	2,179	2,126	7	18	5	7	-	-	622	172
Alaska-----	-	-	12	59	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	108
Hawaii-----	-	4	68	184	-	4	-	-	-	-	201	4
Puerto Rico-----	-	2	51	445	-	-	-	2	-	-	22	21

¹Includes cases not specified by type, category number 080.3.

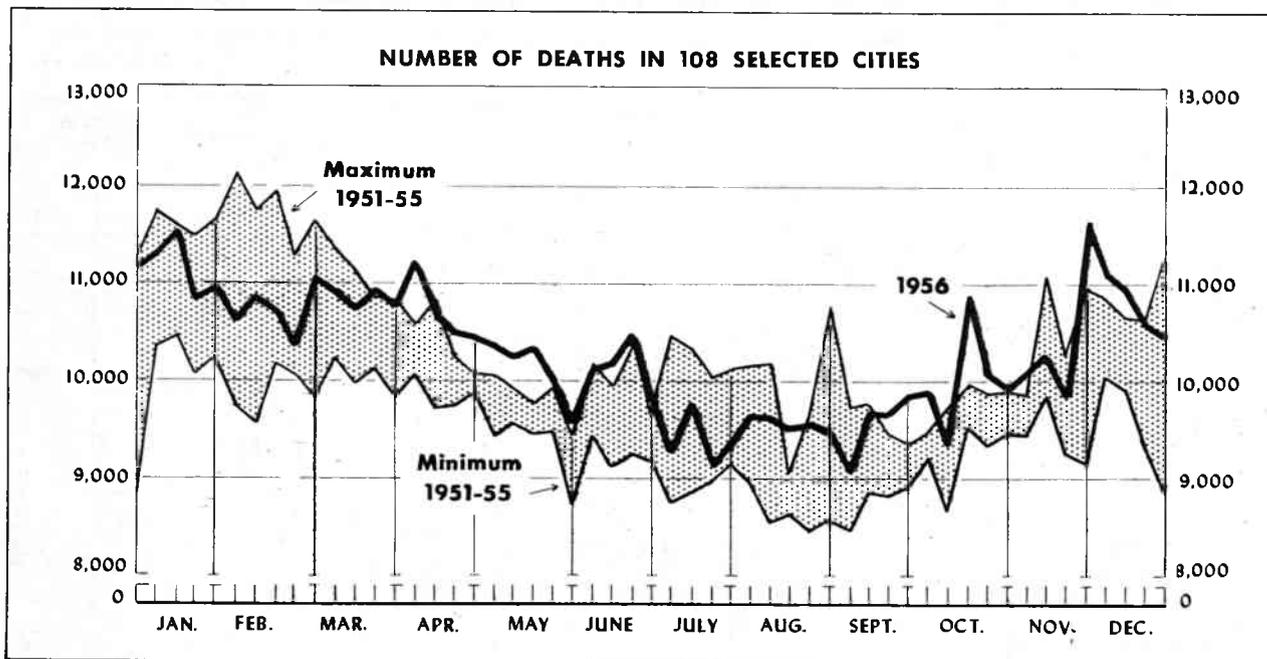
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Table 2. CASES OF SPECIFIED NOTIFIABLE DISEASES: UNITED STATES, EACH DIVISION AND STATE, ALASKA, HAWAII, AND PUERTO RICO, FOR WEEKS ENDED DECEMBER 31, 1955 AND DECEMBER 29, 1956—Continued

(By place of occurrence. Numbers under diseases are category numbers of the Sixth Revision of the International Lists, 1948)

AREA	MENINGOCOCCAL INFECTIONS		MENINGITIS, OTHER	PSITTACOSIS		TYPHOID FEVER 010				TYPHUS FEVER, ENDEMIC	RABIES IN ANIMALS	
	057		340	096.2		52d week		Cumulative for 52 weeks		101	101	
	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1955	1956	1956	1955
CONT. UNITED STATES-----	45	77	26	5	10	12	23	1,759	1,726	2	91	69
NEW ENGLAND-----	5	1	2	-	-	-	2	57	40	-	-	-
Maine-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	17	7	-	-	-
New Hampshire-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Vermont-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	1	-	-	-
Massachusetts-----	1	-	2	-	-	-	1	16	17	-	-	-
Rhode Island-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	4	-	-	-
Connecticut-----	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	15	11	-	-	-
MIDDLE ATLANTIC-----	5	15	-	-	1	1	3	206	188	-	5	6
New York-----	4	11	-	-	-	1	1	56	47	-	4	6
New Jersey-----	1	1	-	-	1	1	-	33	28	-	-	-
Pennsylvania-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	2	115	113	-	1	-
EAST NORTH CENTRAL-----	6	21	5	4	1	1	2	252	164	-	15	7
Ohio-----	-	5	-	-	1	1	1	64	72	-	10	2
Indiana-----	-	11	2	-	-	-	1	31	24	-	2	2
Illinois-----	3	2	3	1	-	-	-	37	33	-	-	-
Michigan-----	3	3	-	-	-	-	-	55	27	-	2	2
Wisconsin-----	-	-	-	3	-	-	-	45	8	-	1	1
WEST NORTH CENTRAL-----	2	6	-	-	-	-	1	203	107	-	16	6
Minnesota-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	37	7	-	6	1
Iowa-----	1	1	-	-	-	-	1	61	28	-	8	3
Missouri-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	70	53	-	2	2
North Dakota-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	-	-	-	-
South Dakota-----	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	3	13	-	-	-
Nebraska-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	15	4	-	-	-
Kansas-----	-	3	-	-	-	-	-	13	2	-	-	-
SOUTH ATLANTIC-----	9	8	13	-	3	4	1	288	312	1	28	12
Delaware-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	-	-	-
Maryland-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	22	21	-	-	-
District of Columbia-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	12	7	-	-	-
Virginia-----	2	3	4	-	3	-	-	56	46	-	9	2
West Virginia-----	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	25	43	-	-	2
North Carolina-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	29	36	-	8	2
South Carolina-----	3	-	3	-	-	-	-	31	50	-	4	5
Georgia-----	2	2	5	-	-	1	-	54	49	-	5	-
Florida-----	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	55	58	1	2	1
EAST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	5	6	4	-	-	-	5	236	250	-	14	17
Kentucky-----	1	1	2	-	-	-	1	57	105	-	5	7
Tennessee-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	2	82	80	-	2	2
Alabama-----	4	3	-	-	-	-	1	30	41	-	7	6
Mississippi-----	-	1	2	-	-	-	1	67	24	-	-	2
WEST SOUTH CENTRAL-----	4	6	2	-	3	3	4	339	423	-	8	15
Arkansas-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	72	88	-	1	6
Louisiana-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	55	92	-	7	-
Oklahoma-----	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	53	53	-	-	-
Texas-----	4	2	1	-	3	2	-	159	190	-	-	9
MOUNTAIN-----	3	4	-	-	1	2	3	79	130	1	3	2
Montana-----	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	5	-	-	-
Idaho-----	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	4	17	1	-	-
Wyoming-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	3	7	-	-	-
Colorado-----	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	22	16	-	-	-
New Mexico-----	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	19	58	-	-	-
Arizona-----	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	24	22	-	3	2
Utah-----	-	2	-	-	1	-	-	2	4	-	-	-
Nevada-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	-	-	-
PACIFIC-----	4	6	-	1	1	1	2	119	112	-	2	4
Washington-----	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	4	-	-	-
Oregon-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	13	-	-	-
California-----	4	6	-	1	-	1	2	102	95	-	2	4
Alaska-----	-	-	-	4	-	-	-	1	4	-	-	-
Hawaii-----	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
Puerto Rico-----	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	87	49	-	-	-

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The chart shows the number of deaths reported for 108 major cities of the United States by week during the past year. For comparison, the chart shows both the maximum and minimum number of deaths reported for the corresponding weeks of the 5 previous years.

The provisional figures shown in tables 3 and 4 were compiled from reports of the number of death certificates received each week in the vital statistics office of each city. The weekly count included all certificates filed for deaths occurring in the area, regardless of the date of death and regardless of the residence of the deceased.

Figures compiled in this way, by week of receipt, usually approximate closely the number of deaths occurring during the week. Differences are to be expected because of variations in the interval between death and receipt of the certificate. Whenever a holiday falls on the last day of the work week, the number of death certificates received for that week is usually low,

while the number for the following week is high. The sharp fluctuations in October and November 1955 were caused when city vital statistics offices closed Friday October 12 (Columbus Day) and closed Thursday and Friday of Thanksgiving week.

When the data shown here are used to compare 2 cities or to compare 2 years for a certain city, consideration must be given to several factors. The number of deaths reported by a city generally varies with the size of its population, so that changes from year to year in the number of deaths may be due, in part, to population increases or decreases. In cities of the same size, the number of deaths may differ because of variations in the age, color, and sex composition of their populations. Some cities are hospital centers serving large numbers of persons from areas outside the city limits, and in some areas the hospitals serving the city are outside the city limits.

See the first page for a summary of mortality in 1956.

Table 3. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES BY GEOGRAPHIC DIVISION

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

AREA	52d week ended Dec. 29, 1956	51st week ended Dec. 22 1956	52d week median 1953-55	Percent change, median to current week	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS		
					1956	1955	Percent change
TOTAL: 108 REPORTING CITIES-----	10,449	10,575	11,140	-6.2	534,103	526,008	+1.5
New England----- (14 cities)	748	706	792	-5.6	35,075	35,570	-1.4
Middle Atlantic----- (17 cities)	3,008	2,985	3,251	-7.5	154,628	155,006	-0.2
East North Central----- (18 cities)	2,368	2,335	2,451	-3.4	116,868	115,410	+1.3
West North Central----- (9 cities)	824	727	766	+7.6	38,480	37,595	+2.4
South Atlantic----- (9 cities)	783	812	925	-15.4	41,318	39,913	+3.5
East South Central----- (8 cities)	426	413	505	-15.6	24,403	24,213	+0.8
West South Central----- (13 cities)	779	914	889	-12.4	43,781	41,129	+6.4
Mountain----- (8 cities)	228	280	268	-14.9	12,815	12,234	+4.7
Pacific----- (12 cities)	1,285	1,403	1,279	+0.5	66,735	64,938	+2.8

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Table 4. DEATHS IN SELECTED CITIES FOR WEEK ENDED DECEMBER 29, 1956

(By place of occurrence, and week of filing certificate. Exclusive of fetal deaths)

CITY	52d week ended Dec. 29, 1956	51st week ended Dec. 22, 1956	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS		CITY	52d week ended Dec. 29, 1956	51st week ended Dec. 22, 1956	CUMULATIVE NUMBER FOR 52 WEEKS	
			1956	1955				1956	1955
NEW ENGLAND					WEST NORTH CENTRAL—Con.				
Boston, Mass.-----	257	244	11,870	12,059	St. Louis, Mo.-----	279	202	12,119	11,448
Bridgeport, Conn.-----	31	29	1,891	1,918	St. Paul, Minn.-----	76	64	3,397	3,321
Cambridge, Mass.-----	29	28	1,525	1,550	Wichita, Kans.-----	46	25	2,173	2,014
Fall River, Mass.-----	29	20	1,426	1,429	SOUTH ATLANTIC				
Hartford, Conn.-----	41	51	2,433	2,366	Atlanta, Ga.-----	69	113	5,591	5,459
Lowell, Mass.-----	33	32	1,226	1,327	Baltimore, Md.-----	235	253	11,989	11,700
Lynn, Mass.-----	23	22	1,092	1,174	Charlotte, N. C.-----	35	26	1,550	1,437
New Bedford, Mass.-----	19	20	1,167	1,242	Jacksonville, Fla.-----	(43)	(57)	(2,657)	(2,535)
New Haven, Conn.-----	60	50	2,391	2,234	Miami, Fla.-----	32	51	2,649	2,685
Providence, R. I.-----	66	75	3,205	3,287	Norfolk, Va.-----	27	31	1,687	1,620
Somerville, Mass.-----	14	18	777	783	Richmond, Va.-----	82	95	3,644	3,382
Springfield, Mass.-----	51	33	2,141	2,201	Savannah, Ga.-----	(22)	(21)	(1,473)	(1,517)
Waterbury, Conn.-----	38	28	1,326	1,312	Tampa, Fla.-----	65	46	2,989	2,834
Worcester, Mass.-----	57	56	2,615	2,688	Washington, D. C.-----	176	171	9,412	8,984
					Wilmington, Del.-----	42	26	1,807	1,812
MIDDLE ATLANTIC					EAST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Albany, N. Y.-----	37	55	2,514	2,489	Birmingham, Ala.-----	46	73	3,946	3,993
Allentown, Pa.-----	(34)	(46)	(1,928)	(1,865)	Chattanooga, Tenn.-----	38	30	2,154	2,265
Buffalo, N. Y.-----	91	113	7,306	6,993	Knoxville, Tenn.-----	38	18	1,673	1,721
Camden, N. J.-----	46	34	2,024	1,879	Louisville, Ky.-----	97	98	5,443	5,362
Elizabeth, N. J.-----	39	29	1,434	1,343	Memphis, Tenn.-----	83	94	5,116	5,068
Erie, Pa.-----	40	22	1,690	1,785	Mobile, Ala.-----	40	43	1,809	1,549
Jersey City, N. J.-----	80	71	3,607	3,574	Montgomery, Ala.-----	29	17	1,474	1,368
Newark, N. J.-----	92	76	4,978	5,225	Nashville, Tenn.-----	55	40	2,788	2,667
New York City, N. Y.-----	1,645	1,582	80,647	81,462	WEST SOUTH CENTRAL				
Paterson, N. J.-----	44	48	1,977	1,928	Austin, Tex.-----	27	34	1,416	1,344
Philadelphia, Pa.-----	422	486	24,480	24,636	Baton Rouge, La.-----	50	22	1,155	1,108
Pittsburgh, Pa.-----	184	182	9,437	9,200	Corpus Christi, Tex.-----	18	27	1,036	906
Reading, Pa.-----	(23)	(22)	(1,118)	(1,183)	Dallas, Tex.-----	115	129	5,636	5,100
Rochester, N. Y.-----	96	92	4,915	4,929	El Paso, Tex.-----	28	25	1,402	1,450
Schenectady, N. Y.-----	28	25	1,164	1,161	Fort Worth, Tex.-----	71	60	3,046	2,871
Scranton, Pa.-----	(38)	(31)	(1,764)	(1,767)	Houston, Tex.-----	105	163	7,036	6,556
Syracuse, N. Y.-----	66	77	3,081	2,868	Little Rock, Ark.-----	28	51	2,365	2,263
Trenton, N. J.-----	30	34	2,239	2,438	New Orleans, La.-----	162	165	8,210	7,655
Utica, N. Y.-----	40	30	1,604	1,609	Oklahoma City, Okla.-----	48	74	3,255	2,895
Yonkers, N. Y.-----	28	29	1,531	1,487	San Antonio, Tex.-----	96	106	4,598	4,433
					Shreveport, La.-----	19	38	2,291	2,032
EAST NORTH CENTRAL					MOUNTAIN				
Akron, Ohio-----	66	62	2,768	2,714	Albuquerque, N. Mex.-----	18	27	1,190	1,195
Canton, Ohio-----	27	20	1,476	1,432	Colorado Springs, Colo.-----	7	13	668	666
Chicago, Ill.-----	802	778	38,041	37,801	Denver, Colo.-----	102	127	5,589	5,504
Cincinnati, Ohio-----	163	123	7,608	7,628	Ogden, Utah-----	9	12	653	580
Cleveland, Ohio-----	197	238	10,661	10,235	Phoenix, Ariz.-----	40	33	1,369	1,255
Columbus, Ohio-----	121	107	5,614	5,516	Pueblo, Colo.-----	9	15	650	643
Dayton, Ohio-----	82	70	3,461	3,369	Salt Lake City, Utah-----	56	36	2,304	2,158
Detroit, Mich.-----	318	343	16,400	16,690	Tucson, Ariz.-----	7	17	392	233
Evansville, Ind.-----	26	31	1,719	1,652	PACIFIC				
Flint, Mich.-----	41	44	1,991	1,957	Berkeley, Calif.-----	26	20	883	939
Fort Wayne, Ind.-----	38	35	1,849	1,721	Long Beach, Calif.-----	42	55	2,763	2,536
Gary, Ind.-----	(34)	(34)	(1,495)	(1,426)	Los Angeles, Calif.-----	460	540	24,421	23,660
Grand Rapids, Mich.-----	44	37	2,107	2,154	Oakland, Calif.-----	99	120	4,744	4,489
Indianapolis, Ind.-----	117	147	6,083	5,810	Pasadena, Calif.-----	51	32	1,808	1,837
Milwaukee, Wis.-----	126	124	6,447	6,484	Portland, Oreg.-----	115	69	4,896	4,790
Peoria, Ill.-----	25	25	1,500	1,513	Sacramento, Calif.-----	46	48	2,528	2,496
South Bend, Ind.-----	21	22	1,270	1,320	San Diego, Calif.-----	62	77	3,913	3,601
Toledo, Ohio-----	115	86	4,906	4,776	San Francisco, Calif.-----	197	214	9,903	9,522
Youngstown, Ohio-----	39	45	2,767	2,638	Seattle, Wash.-----	115	140	6,535	6,570
					Spokane, Wash.-----	40	49	2,377	2,359
WEST NORTH CENTRAL					HONOLULU, HAWAII				
Des Moines, Iowa-----	38	61	2,606	2,655		(29)	(39)	(1,805)	(1,847)
Duluth, Minn.-----	16	27	1,334	1,294					
Kansas City, Kans.-----	21	31	1,576	1,730					
Kansas City, Mo.-----	117	117	5,635	5,705					
Minneapolis, Minn.-----	152	136	6,244	6,135					
Omaha, Nebr.-----	79	64	3,396	3,293					

Symbols.—parentheses () : data not included in table 3; 3 dashes [---] : data not available.

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL REPORTS—Continued

the morning of the following day. No food samples were available for laboratory tests. However, washings of viscera cavities and samples of turkeys from the same lot and same plant are being tested.

Gastro-enteritis

Dr. Mason Romaine, Virginia State Department of Health, has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in an elementary school. Of 168 pupils who ate lunch in the cafeteria, 99 became ill with nausea and vomiting from 2 to 4 hours later. Bacteriologic examination of foods served revealed the turkey salad to be contaminated with hemolytic Staphylococcus aureus. An investigation revealed the turkey had been received the middle of November and was kept in a deep freeze until boiled on December 13. After boiling, it was left overnight at room temperature and was deboned and made into salad the following day. Fresh homemade salad dressing was used.

Dr. E. A. Belden, Missouri Department of Public Health and Welfare, has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis following the ingestion of cream-filled doughnuts. Five persons in one family became ill from 2 to 4 hours after eating the food. The doughnuts were purchased from a bakery where the baker went home with a "virus" the morning the product was baked. Laboratory examination of the doughnuts revealed a nonhemolytic S. aureus. Illness was reported in another family of unknown size who ate doughnuts purchased from another store of the same chain.

Dr. S. B. Osgood, Oregon State Board of Health, has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis in a private residence. Three members of a family and their 4 guests became ill with abdominal cramps and diarrhea from 4 to 5 hours after an evening meal. In addition, 5 of the persons had nausea, vomiting, and prostration. Of 7 food items served, coagulase-positive, hemolytic S. aureus was isolated from both turkey and shrimp. The turkey was of a nationally known brand, individually packaged and frozen. The bird was allowed to thaw at room temperature for more than a day. Since both the turkey and the shrimp yielded the causative organism it is believed contamination took place in the home.

Dr. J. H. Paul, Hillsborough County (Florida) Health Department, has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 35 persons attending a lodge supper. Of these, 10 are known to have become ill with severe abdominal pain and diarrhea from 7 to 14 hours after ingestion of the meal. An investigation revealed the most probable vehicle of infection was swiss steak and a sauce prepared the morning of the outbreak. It had been left unrefrigerated during the day and served around 7:00 p.m. Bacteriologic examination of foods including the meat were negative for pathogens.

Dr. Loren Rosenbach, Palm Beach County (Florida) Health Department, has reported an outbreak of gastro-enteritis among 12 persons eating a catered meal. An unknown number became ill from 3 to 6 hours later. Food ingestion histories indicated that the macaroni and cheese dish was the vehicle of infection but none was available for bacteriologic examination.

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